

Dear Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven, CT and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. These are my personal views and do not reflect those of my employer.

I am writing to **support S.B. 1178**.

As a pediatrician, I see every day how poverty negatively impacts the health and wellbeing of children. [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) has published a policy statement describing how children who experience poverty in the forms of hunger, unstable housing, violence, and parental mental health disease have poorer health outcomes such as higher rates of obesity, asthma, poor school performance, and emotional and behavioral challenges.

In order to combat poverty, it is critical that parents have stable employment. When a child becomes sick, a parent should never have to make the impossible choice to stay home and care for their ill child or go to work in order to not get fired. Over 88% of workers in CT are not guaranteed paid sick days under current law which means they may be forced to make this choice.

Therefore, **it is critical that CT elected officials support S.B. 1178** in order to ensure the health and wellbeing of CT children and families.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please reach out with questions.

Sincerely,

Molly Markowitz, MD FAAP

Chair, Advocacy Committee

CT American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter

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